

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: July 2, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-164-Walla Walla-North Lewiston Corridor Maintenance)

TO: William Erickson – TFP/Walla Walla  
Natural Resource Specialist

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management for the Walla Walla-North Lewiston Transmission Line Corridor near Tower 16/2. The line is a 115kV Single Circuit Transmission Line having an easement width of 60 feet. The proposed work will be accomplished in the indicated section of the transmission line corridor as referenced on the attached checklist.

**Location:** The subject right-of-way is located in Walla Walla County, WA, being in the Walla Walla Region.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** The work will include the side trimming or future removal of up to 7 danger and other windbreak trees that pose a hazard to the operation of the subject transmission line.

**Analysis:** Please see the attached checklist for the resources present. Applicable findings and mitigation measures are discussed below.

## **Planning Steps:**

### ***1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.***

BPA proposes to side trim or clear danger and windbreak trees from the transmission line right-of-way in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA Standards. These trees are approaching the electrical clearance zones of the lines. BPA is clearing these trees to prevent them from falling or growing into the lines causing system outages. The work will provide system reliability.

#### **Initial entry**

The trees approaching the clearance zones have been identified. They will be side trimmed to provide 35 to 40 feet of clearance from the lines.

#### **Subsequent entry**

Site will be inspected 2 to 3 times per year. Trees will be inspected for encroachment and trimmed as necessary. This trimming work is expected to occur every 4 to 5 years.

### **Future cycles**

During routine patrols, the ROW will be examined for trees approaching the clearance zones. These trees will be trimmed as necessary.

#### ***2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.***

The work site is located in a rural-dryland cropland area. The trees are used as a windbreak to protect a farmhouse. The landowner is currently renting the house to a tenant. Residential, urban and state/city/county land are also in the area, but not in the immediate work area. Once the trees are trimmed, the establishment of a low growing plant community is not an appropriate strategy. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

The local landowner has been contacted and is in agreement with the work that needs to occur. Both the landowner and tenant will be contacted prior to the beginning of work.

#### ***3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.***

A search on T-View shows that there are no species of concern or habitat within .5 miles of the work area. Also, there are no water resources identified in the work area. No ground disturbance will occur, so no cultural resources, will be affected. Based on this, the work will not impact any natural or cultural resources, so no mitigation will be necessary.

#### ***4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.***

The trees will be side trimmed using manual and mechanical methods to provide 35 to 40 feet of clearance. Tree removal is the preferred option, however growth regulators will be considered.

Debris disposal will be by a combination of chipping and mulching.

#### ***5. Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.***

As referenced above, once the trees are trimmed, the establishment of a low growing plant community is not an appropriate strategy. Therefore, no revegetation is anticipated.

#### ***6. Determine monitoring needs.***

The site will be inspected during treatment. In addition, routine observation by BPA ground and aerial patrols will determine if any follow-up measures will be needed.

**7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.**

Besides this Supplement Analysis, no other environmental documentation should be necessary.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Ken Hutchinson

Ken Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla  
Environmental Scientist

CONCUR: /s/Thomas C. McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 07/02/2003

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4  
T. McKinney – KEC-4  
C. Leiter – KEP-4  
J. Meyer – KEP-4  
K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla  
P. Key – LC-7  
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2  
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1  
R. Duncan – TFP/Walla Walla  
M. Richardson – TFP/Walla Walla  
G. Wilfong – TFPF/Pasco  
Environmental File – KEC  
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

# Vegetation Management Checklist

## 1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

### 1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See Handbook — [List of Right-of-way Components](#) for checkboxes and the requirements for the components [Rights-of-way](#), [Access Roads](#), [Switch Platforms](#), [Danger Trees](#), and [Microwave Beam paths](#).

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Walla Walla N. Lewiston 16/2	82 miles 115 kV	60	<600 feet

#### Right Of Way:

Danger Tree clearing-Tree removal if needed

Other – Windbreak tree off of the right of way

### 1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types, Density, Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

#### Vegetation Types:

Other/Description - Ornamental trees

Density: 1 Lombardy poplar and 5-6 Hybred poplars 40 feet form the centerline

Other/Description – individual trees

### 1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why. See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

Sites are in cropland area. LGPC is not an appropriate strategy

### 1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - [Overall Management Scheme/Schedule](#).

**Initial entry** – Identify trees that are approaching clearance zone. Trim trees to 35-40 feet of clearance.

**Subsequent entry's** – work towards 4-5 year cycle. Removal preferred

**Future cycles** - This maintenance cycle will occur over the next 4-5 years or more.

## 2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

### 2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.

See Handbook — [Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for requirements, and [List of Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for a checkbox list.

#### Landowners/Managers/Uses:

Residential

Rural-Dry land cropland windbreak protects farmhouse.

Urban

State/City/County Lands

**2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., doorhanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.**

See Handbook — [Methods for Notification and Requesting Information](#) for requirements.

BPA will contact the landowner before work begins

**2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.**

See handbook — [Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses](#) for requirements and guidance, also [Residential/Commercial](#), [Agricultural](#), [Tribal Reservations](#), [FS-managed lands](#), [BLM –managed lands](#), [Other federal lands](#), [State/ Local Lands](#).

Residential/Commercial: Farmhouse

The following landowners have responsibility for vegetation maintenance.

None

In the following places, trees will be replaced with a low-growing species, or treated with tree growth regulators.

Span		Landowner	Species	Replace/regulator?
To	From			
16/2	16/3	Brown	Poplars	Regulators will be considered

**2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.**

See handbook — [Landowner Agreements](#) for requirements.

None

**2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure’s to take due to the informal use.**

See handbook — [Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way](#) for requirements.

Farmhouse currently occupied by a tenant

**2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.**

See handbook — [Other Potentially Affected Publics](#) for requirements and suggestions.

None

**3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES**

See Handbook — [Natural Resources](#)

**3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.**

See Handbook — [Water Resources](#) for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

None identified in the work area.

**3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).**

See Handbook — [Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs](#) for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

No Herbicide use

**3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.**

See Handbook — [T&E Plant or Animal Species](#) for requirements and determining presence.

A search on T-View shows no species of concern or habitat within .5 miles of the work area.

**3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.**

See Handbook — [Protecting Other Species](#) for requirements.

None required

**3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.**

See Handbook — [Visual Sensitive Areas](#) for requirements.

None identified

**3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.**

See Handbook — [Cultural Resources](#) for requirements.

None identified. No ground disturbance will occur.

**3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.**

See Handbook — [Steep/Unstable Slopes](#) for requirements.

None

**3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.**

See Handbook — [Spanned Canyons](#) for requirements.

None

**4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS**

See Handbook — [Methods](#)

**4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.**

See Handbook — [Manual, Mechanical, Biological, and Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

Manual, Mechanical, Herbicides: growth regulators only

**5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION**

**5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.**

See Handbook — [Debris disposal](#) for a checkbox list and requirements.

Site specific prescription will include options on debris disposal see cut sheet.

**Debris Disposal:**

**Chip** (Mechanical brush disposal unit cuts brush into chips 4 in. or less in diameter, and spread over ROW, piled on ROW, or trucked off site.

Trunks too large for the chipper are limbed and the limbs chipped. Trunks are placed in rows along the edge of the right-of-way or scattered, as the situation requires.)

**Mulch** (Mulching is a debris treatment that falls between chipping and lop-and-scatter. The debris is cut into 1-to-2-ft. lengths, scattered on the right-of-way and left to decompose. This method is used when terrain and conditions do not allow the use of mechanical chipping equipment.)

**5.2 List areas of reseeded or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).**

See Handbook — [Reseeding/replanting](#) for requirements.

None

**5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.**

N/A

**5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.**

N/A

**6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS**

See handbook — [Monitoring](#) for requirements.

**6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.**

Right of way is reviewed 2-3 times per year to follow up with any additional high trees

**6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.**

Right of way is reviewed 2-3 times per year to follow up with any additional high trees

**7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

See handbook — [Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation](#) for requirements.

**7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.**

None

**7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.**

No